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FALL ARMYWORM

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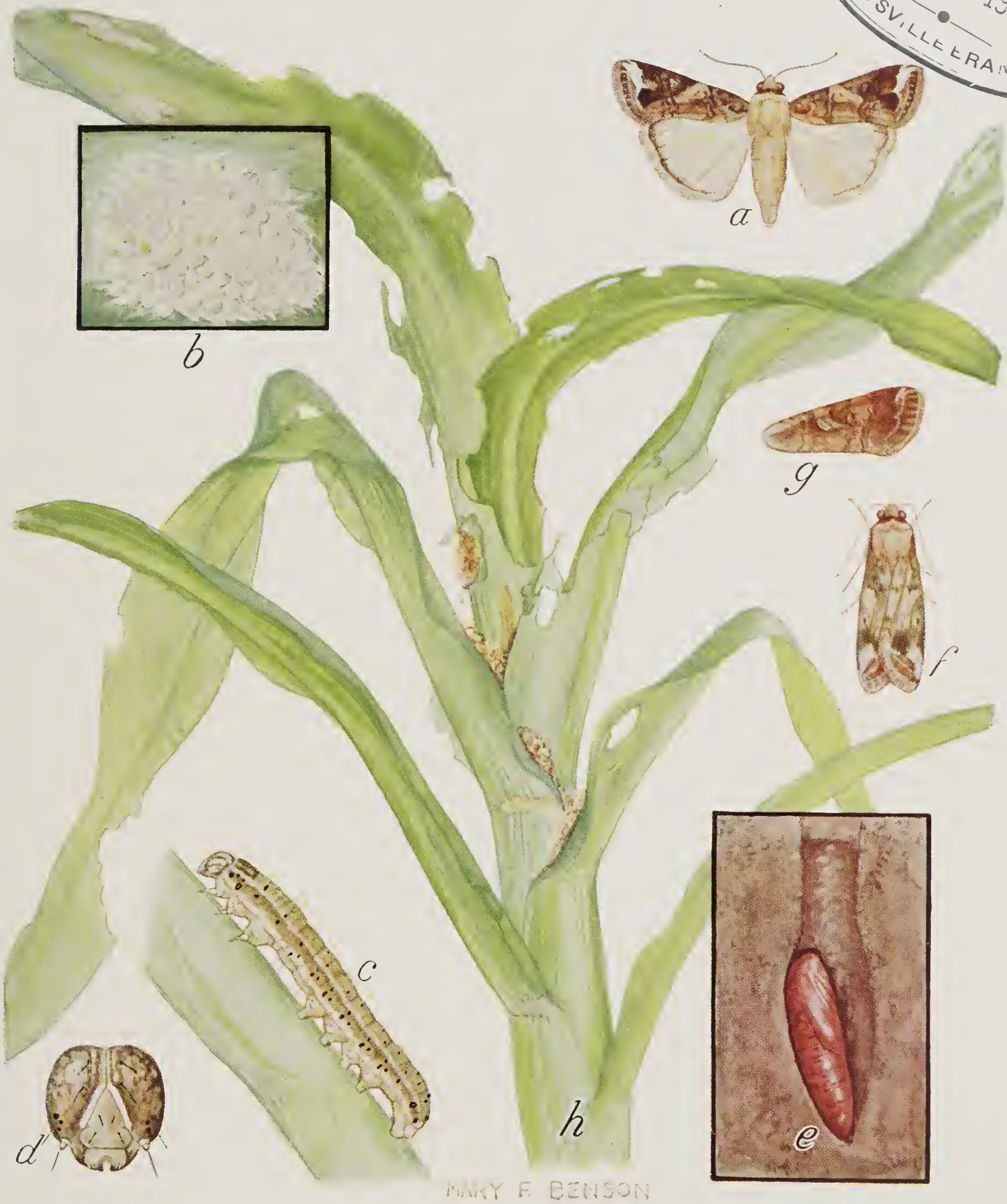

MARY F. BENSON

a, Male moth (or adult); *b*, eggs; *c*, larva; *d*, face of larva; *e*, pupa in a cell; *f*, moth in resting posture; g, wing of female moth; *h*, feeding injury to corn plant. (*a*, *c*, *e*, *f*, g, *h* about 1⅓ times natural size; *b* twice natural size; *d* 8 times natural size.)

(See other side for life history and control)

Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine
United States Department of Agriculture

Picture Sheet No. 12

FALL ARMYWORM

(*Laphygma frugiperda* (A. and S.))

The fall armyworm, known principally as an enemy of growing corn, feeds on many other cultivated crops, such as alfalfa, cotton, peanuts, and grasses, and also on wild plants. The eggs are laid at night on grasses or other plants and hatch in about 5 days. The young larvae (caterpillars, or "worms") feed at first in concealment near the ground, become full grown in about 20 days, and then enter the soil for a few inches and change into pupae. The inactive pupal stage lasts about 10 days. After the moths emerge from the pupal cases they often fly many miles before the females lay eggs. The fall armyworm may have as many as six generations a year in the Gulf States, but does not survive the winter farther north. In addition to eating the blades of corn and boring into the stalks, the larvae may bore into the ears, particularly the shanks of the ears, and feed extensively therein.

Control

The fall armyworm can be controlled with the following sprays: (1) 2 pounds per acre of a wettable powder containing 50 percent of either DDT or TDE, mixed with 40 gallons of water. (2) A toxaphene emulsifiable concentrate, applied by aircraft at the rate of 1½ to 2 pounds of toxaphene in 2 gallons of spray per acre.

The application of a dust containing 5 percent of DDT, toxaphene, or TDE, at the rate of 40 pounds per acre, or a 20-percent toxaphene dust at 10 to 15 pounds per acre, has also been reported to give good control.

To control so-called "budworm" damage in sweet corn, caused by the feeding of this worm deep in the whorls of the corn plant, spray with an emulsion made with 3 quarts of a 25-percent DDT emulsifiable concentrate, 5 quarts of a white mineral oil of 50 to 95 seconds Saybolt viscosity, and enough water to make 25 gallons of spray. Apply the spray at the rate of 25 gallons per acre.

When the worms are crawling over the ground in large numbers they may be destroyed by broadcasting a poisoned bait thinly over the infested fields, and moderate infestations in corn may sometimes be controlled by light sprinklings of the bait in the leaf whorls. To prepare this bait mix 50 pounds of wheat bran with 2 pounds of paris green, and then add 6 gallons of water to make a damp mash. This quantity is enough for 2 to 3 acres.

Warning: All these insecticides are poisons. They must be kept out of reach of children or animals and must be handled with care, according to directions on the containers. Because the residue of DDT, TDE, or toxaphene may be dangerous to humans and livestock, hay or forage that has been treated with these insecticides should not be fed to dairy animals or to meat animals being finished for slaughter. Paris green is a strong poison. Thoroughly wash out containers that have been used for mixing bait. Dispose of surplus bait by broadcasting it thinly on the ground in a field.

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